

Message Text

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TAGS: EGEN, UNGA

SUBJECT: UNGA SPECIAL SESSION: INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS

REF: USUN 1075

1. THIS TELEGRAM PROVIDES PRELIMINARY GUIDANCE ON QUESTIONS RAISED IN REFTEL CONCERNING STRUCTURE OF UNGA 7TH SPECIAL SESSION. AS MISSION AWARE DEPT IS ACTIVELY CONSIDERING DETAILS OF SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WHICH MIGHT BE DISCUSSED AT THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION. FOR THE PRESENT,
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HOWEVER, WE WISH TO DISCUSS THESE IN GENERAL TERMS ONLY

IN CONTEXT OF BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH KEY DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BEFORE FLOATING THEM AT INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS.

2. UK 3-TIER APPROACH: WE AGREE WITH BASIC PURPOSES AND CONCEPTS OF UK APPROACH. IT IS NOT NOW POSSIBLE TO

ASSESS WHETHER UK IDEAS ON FORMAT ARE LIKELY TO HAVE REASONABLE CHANCE OF SUCCEEDING WITH LDCS SINCE WE STILL KNOW RELATIVELY LITTLE ABOUT OVERALL APPROACH LIKELY TO BE TAKEN BY LDCS. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT MODIFICATIONS IN BRITISH FORMAT COULD LATER HELP US TO AVOID DIFFICULTIES. FOR THESE REASONS WE CAN GIVE UK IDEAS OUR GENERAL SUPPORT WHILE RESERVING POSSIBILITY OF MODIFICATIONS OR SHIFT IN EMPHASIS AS SITUATION DEVELOPS. BASIC UK CONCEPT, WHICH COINCIDES WITH OUR OWN THINKING, SEEMS TO US TO BE THE FOLLOWING: 7TH SPECIAL SESSION SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON AREAS SUSCEPTIBLE TO AGREEMENT; THESE CAN BE OF A GENERAL NATURE, INCLUDING POINTS OF PRINCIPLE AND OBJECTIVES, TO BE INCLUDED IN TIER ONE; THEY MAY ALSO BE OF A MORE SPECIFIC NATURE SUCH AS AREAS WHERE PRACTICAL PROGRESS MAY BE POSSIBLE AND SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED, AS IN TIER TWO.

3. KEY QUESTION IN ASSESSING UTILITY OF UK IDEA REMAINS WHETHER LDCS WILL BE WILLING OR CAN BE INDUCED TO FOREGO OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE SPECIAL SESSION ONCE AGAIN ENDORSE BY OVERWHELMING MAJORITY THOSE LDC PROPOSALS ON WHICH NO CONSENSUS IS POSSIBLE. UK PRESUMABLY BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO LDCS TO BE ABLE TO REFLECT SOME OF THESE AREAS AT LEAST IN TIER THREE AS ISSUES FOR FURTHER STUDY, RATHER THAN TO OMIT ALL MENTION OF THEM IN THE SPECIAL SESSION'S FINAL PRODUCT. IF THIS DEVICE CAN WORK, WE WOULD REGARD IT AS A DEFINITE STEP FORWARD SINCE IT WOULD BE A PROCEDURE WHEREBY THE ASSEMBLY DULY REFLECTS AND RESPECTS SIGNIFICANT DISAGREEMENT.

4. IF BRITISH IDEA GETS OFF THE GROUND, IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT FOR US AND OTHER DCS SUPPORTING IT TO PREVENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IDEA FROM BEING MISUSED BY LDCS. FOR EXAMPLE, BASIC PURPOSE WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE THWARTED IF TIER ONE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES BECAME BATTLEGROUND REGARDING OBJECTIVES ON WHICH THERE WERE NO CHANCE OF AGREEMENT. ALSO, IDEA OF TIER THREE WILL REMAIN USEFUL ONLY IF SUBJECTS CAN CONVENIENTLY DROP INTO THIS TIER WITHOUT MAJOR STRUGGLE. OF COURSE, TIER THREE IS NOT AT ALL ESSENTIAL FROM OUR STANDPOINT IF, IN FACT, LDCS

ARE WILLING IN TIERS ONE AND TWO TO CONCENTRATE ON DEFINITION OF AGREED POINTS. ACCORDINGLY, AS BRITISH INDICATE, IT WOULD BE TACTICALLY ADVANTAGEOUS NOT TO FOCUS INITIAL OR EARLY DISCUSSION ON TIER THREE AND TO WAIT UNTIL MUCH LATER TO SEE WHETHER LIST OF ITEMS UNDER TIER THREE HELPS TO KEEP TIERS ONE AND TWO RESERVED FOR AREAS OF AGREEMENT.

5. ORGANIZATION OF WORK: WE WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE AGREEMENT NOW THAT SUBSTANTIVE WORK WILL BE LIMITED WITHIN ONE SUBCOMMITTEE. THIS ARRANGEMENT WOULD TEND TO PUT ALL SUBSTANTIVE EGGS IN ONE BASKET, PROBABLY UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF AN LDC, AND RESULT MIGHT BE SIMPLISTIC PROCEDURE SKEWED TO FAVOR LDC PROPOSALS AND DRAFTS. IF THERE DOES TURN OUT TO BE WILLINGNESS TO FOCUS ON LIMITED NUMBER OF AREAS SUSCEPTIBLE TO AGREEMENT, IT WOULD THEN BE PREFERABLE TO HAVE SEVERAL SUBCOMMITTEES AND/OR SUBSTANTIVE WORKING GROUPS WHICH COULD DEVELOP CONSENSUS GUIDELINES WITHIN THESE LIMITED AREAS.

6. IN INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS IN NEW YORK, WE SHOULD GIVE GENERAL SUPPORT TO BASIC IDEAS AND PURPOSES OF BRITISH APPROACH IN ACCORDANCE WITH ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS. WE ARE AT THIS POINT NOT WEDDED TO ANY PARTICULAR FORMULA. HOWEVER, WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE ANY WAYS OF PROCEEDING OR ANY PROPOSED FORMATS WHICH WOULD HAVE EFFECT OF HELPING SPECIAL SESSION TO CONCENTRATE ON FINDING AREAS OF BROAD AGREEMENT RATHER THAN REPLAYING PRIOR DISAGREEMENTS ON WHICH NO PROGRESS LIKELY.
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